00925

1972/02/24

NODIS NODIS NODIS

Department of State TELEGRAM

72 FEB 24 PM 12:01

SECRET

6 0 6 2 9
24 FEB 72 216 25
FEB 24 PM 12:19
SITUATION ROOM

0 241415Z FEB 72 ZFF-6
FM USDEL FRANCE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5594
INFO RUEHCR/AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE 41
BT
S E C R E T USDEL FRANCE 3474

NODIS/PARIS MEETINGS

FOR AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN, EA

DEPT PLEASE PASS TO SECRETARY IN PEKING

SUBJ: COMMENT ON 145TH MEETING PARIS TALKS FEB 24, 1972

REF: A. USDEL FRANCE 3267
B. STATE 029791

1. WHEN WE ARRIVED AT HOTEL MAJESTIC FOR MEETING THIS MORNING, I MADE BRIEF STATEMENT TO MEDIA TO EFFECT THAT SINCE LAST MEETING NORTH VIETNAMESE AND VIET CONG HAD BEEN URGING US TO MEET FOR "SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS" AND THAT WE WERE DOING SO TODAY DESPITE FACT THAT WE HAD NOT SEEN MUCH OF THAT BY THEM IN PAST.

2. THOUGH IT WAS VC TURN TO SPEAK, XUAN THUY TOOK OVER AND SPOKE FIRST, WHICH USUALLY MEANS SOMETHING IS UP. HE DISPLAYED SIGNS OF PERTURBATION MENTION IN REFTEL A BY UNUSUAL TENSENESS AND TERSNESS. HE ALSO WITHHELD TEXT OF HIS REMARKS UNTIL HE HAD DELIVERED THEM, WHICH WAS ALSO OUT OF ORDINARY. HE DISCUSSED OUR CANCELLATION OF MEETING ON OCCASION OF VERSAILLES CONFERENCE AND U.S. BOMBING IN USUAL TERMS, DENOUNCED OUR AIDE MEMOIRE AGREEING TO MEET ON 24TH, AND THEN PROCEEDED TO SAY THAT THEY WERE TERMINATING THE 145TH MEETING FOR THOSE REASONS. HE WAS FOLLOWED BY VC REP WHO PARROTED THUY'S REMARKS. NVN/VC THEN ROSE AND LEFT THE HALL. LAM AND I AND OUR DELEGATIONS REMAINED SEATED, AS WE DECIDED TO PUT SOME REMARKS ON THE TAPE RECORDERS WHICH WERE FUNCTIONING.

3. LAM SAID THAT THEIR DECISION WAS WITHOUT VALID REASON, THAT EVERYONE KNOWS THEY HAD USED VERSAILLES GROUP FOR PROPAGANDA AIMS AND HAD MEANWHILE INTENSIFIED MILITARY ACTIVITIES. HE COMMENTED ON THEIR PROPOSAL THAT MEETING SHOULD TAKE PLACE NEXT WEEK BY SAYING THAT OUR SIDE RESERVED ITS DECISION IN HAT CONNECTION.

SECRET

NOT TO BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

DECLASSIFIED
Authority E012958
By AT NARA Date 3-8-00

NODIS NODIS NODIS

Department of State TELEGRAM

SECRET

-2- USDEL FRANCE 3474, FEB 24, NODIS/PARIS MEETINGS

4. I REMARKED THAT I SUPPORTED LAM'S STATEMENT FOR OUR SIDE AND THAT THE NVN/VC ACT WAS TYPICAL EXAMPLE OF WHAT THEY MEANT BY "SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS" WHEN THEY URGED US TO RETURN TO THE MEETINGS.

5. PRIOR TO MEETING WE HAD DECIDED THAT, DEPENDING ON LEVEL OF INVECTIVE, WE MIGHT STATE THAT IN VIEW OF THEIR ATTITUDE WE DID NOT WISH TO CONTINUE MEETING AND THEREFORE PROPOSED ADJOURNMENT WITHOUT COMMITMENT TO DATE OF NEXT MEETING. IN CASE OF REASONABLE SPEECH ON THEIR PART, WE HAD PREPARED PAPER IN SAME VEIN.

6. ON LEAVING MAJESTIC I SAID TO PRESS THAT NVN/VC ACTION INDICATED WHAT THEY MEANT BY URGING US TO RETURN TO TABLE FOR "SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS." I ADDED THAT THEIR DEPARTURE IN SUCH ABRUPT FASHION WAS CLEAR VIOLATION OF RULES AND WAS VERY UNGRACIOUS GESTURE TOWARD FRENCH HOSTS, WHO GO TO SUCH TROUBLE TO SET THINGS UP FOR OUR MEETINGS. (FRENCH PERSONNEL WERE VERY ANNOYED AS OTHER SIDE DID NOT GIVE THEM ANY ADVANCE NOTICE AND WALKED PAST THEM IN VERY TENSE STATE WITHOUT IMPARTING ANY INFORMATION AS THEY LEFT.)

7. WHAT WE HAVE HERE IS ANOTHER MANIFESTATION OF HIGH LEVEL TENSION EVIDENT IN RECENT HANOI RADIO PRONOUNCEMENTS, ESPECIALLY ATTACKS ON PRESIDENT NIXON WHICH YOU WILL HAVE SEEN. I SEE NO LIKELY USEFULNESS IN ACCEPTING THEIR DECLARATION THAT WE SHOULD MEET NEXT WEEK. THEY ARE, AS YOU KNOW, HIGHLY EXCITABLE AND SUSPICIOUS PEOPLE AND ARE GOING THROUGH PERIOD WHEN THEIR WORRIES ABOUT PEKING ARE WAXING. IT OBVIOUS IN RETROSPECT THAT THEIR METION OF "SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS" REQUIRING OUR PRESENCE FOR THIS MEETING WAS DESIGNED TO ACHIEVE MEETING SO AS TO CONVEY IN THEIR OWN WAY (BY WALKOUT) REMINDERS MENTIONED IN REFTEL A.

8. FURTHER ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATION FOLLOW. I HOPE FOR YOUR COMMENT ASAP. GP-3

PORTER

NOTE: NOT PASSED SECRETARY IN PEKING BY OC/T.

SECRET

NOT TO BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

DECLASSIFIED
Authority E012958
By AT NARA Date 3-8-00